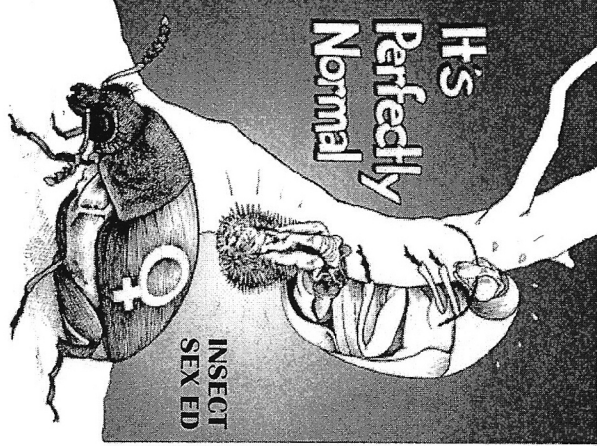
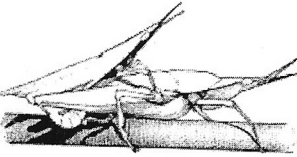


Learning about and becoming comfortable
with your changing body...



Fortunately, your adult form is likely equipped with one or more reproductive strategies to ensure your success as a sexual competitor. This edition of *Insect Sex Ed* offers a summary of the various types of strategies available for sexually mature males.



All the energy you have accumulated as either a larva or nymph are now directed toward a new purpose: REPRODUCTION. To this end, safe sex, abstinence and monogamy are strongly discouraged; your imperative is to mate as frequently and as fiercely as possible.

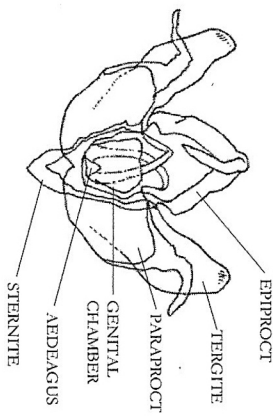
The final stage in your metamorphosis is accompanied by a number of changes both physically and behaviourally. Although experiencing initial embarrassment, new imagines should understand that these changes are a natural part of growing up.

SO YOU'VE REACHED ADULTHOOD...

1. SPECIALIZED PENIS MORPHOLOGY

Your copulatory organ, or AEDEAGUS, may assume any one of countless possible shapes and sizes while also serving some adaptive function (see following pages).

BASIC ANATOMY:



The particular design of your aedeagus is determined by sexual selection, owing either to mate choice (female preference for specific structures), intrasexual competition (with rival males) or intersexual conflict (evolving out of an arms race with the female ovipore).

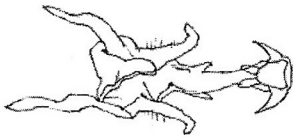
2. SPERM PRECEDENCE

You may be endowed with a modified aedeagus that allows you to either strategically position your sperm within the female's spermatheca or to physically remove a rival's sperm (obeying the first-in-last-out rule).



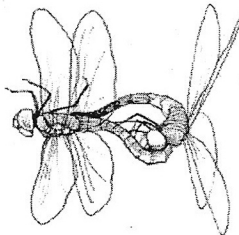
Sperm displacement, or STRATIFICATION, would involve replacing previously deposited sperm with your own. Your penis in this case will have a flexible, whip-like form.

REMOVAL can be achieved either directly, by scooping out existing sperm or indirectly, by flushing out a previous ejaculate. Your penis will typically resemble either a hammer or shovel.



3. PREVENTATIVE MECHANISMS

Other means of ensuring the paternity of your offspring include a prolonged mating period (which may last as long as 10 weeks!) or specialized structures that preempt the interference of potential rivals.



GRAPPLING ORGANS are useful for holding on to your mate to guarantee successful fertilization. Disregard the injury they may cause her; the more relentless your grip, the better.

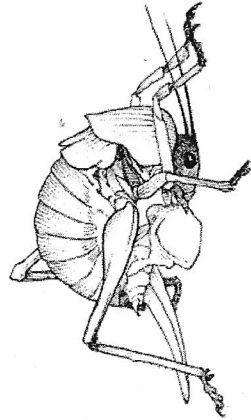


GENITAL PLUGS are detachable parts that lodge in the spermatheca of females to obstruct access by rival sperm.

5. NUPTIAL GIFTS

This strategy involves feeding your mate before, during or after copulation. Think of this as a kind of parental investment (if not simply a way to appease your partner).

Nuptial gifts usually come in the form of captured or regurgitated prey items but you may also produce SPERMATOPHYLLAX: a gelatinous bolus which, ejected with the spermatophore, functions as a nutritive addition for the female.



6. SEXUAL CANNIBALISM

This type of nuptial gift demands something of a sacrifice: voluntarily giving up your life to the female. Sexual cannibalism is most common among mantises, where the comparatively smaller male is perceived no differently than anything else that moves.



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As deviant as it seems, take no shame in this practice. By presenting yourself as a meal (or rather, failing to escape after fertilization), you can effectively maximize both the quantity and quality of your offspring.

by Alexandra Westrich